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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraphs below with the amended paragraphs as follows:
For the paragraph beginning on page 5, lines 3-15:

Q1
In distribution system 100, program streams may be continually transmitted from the head-end to the terminals (i.e., broadcast) or may be addressed to particular terminals that requested the information via an interactive menu (referred to herein as "demand-cast"). An interactive menu structure suitable for requesting video-on-demand (VOD) is disclosed in commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 6,208,335, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING A MENU STRUCTURE FOR AN INTERACTIVE INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS," filed December 3, 1997, and incorporated herein by reference. Another example of an interactive menu suitable for requesting multimedia services is an interactive program guide disclosed in commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/293,521, entitled "DATA STRUCTURE AND METHODS FOR PROVIDING AN INTERACTIVE PROGRAM GUIDE," filed April 15, 1999, and incorporated herein by reference.

For the paragraph beginning on page 6, lines 5-17:

Q2
Picture-based encoding is described in detail in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 621,870, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR COMPRESSION OF VIDEO SEQUENCES," filed August 27, 1999. Slice-based encoding is described in detail in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/428,066, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TRANSMITTING VIDEO AND GRAPHICS IN COMPRESSED FORM," filed October 27, 1999. Temporal slice persistence encoding is described in detail in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. (Attorney Docket No. 19880-00341), entitled "TEMPORAL SLICE PERSISTENCE METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DELIVERY OF INTERACTIVE PROGRAM GUIDE," filed October 10, 2000. Striped encoding and delivery is described in detail in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/687,662, entitled "EFFICIENT DELIVERY OF INTERACTIVE PROGRAM GUIDE USING DEMAND-CAST," filed October 12, 2000. These applications are assigned to the assignee of the invention and incorporated herein by reference.

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For the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 28 to page 9, line 2:

a3 Other elements within head-end 102 may also interface with out-of-band delivery system 170 to send information to terminal 108 via the out-of-band network. ~~For~~ For example, a spotlight server that produces a spotlight user interface (described below) may interface with out-of-band delivery system 170 directly to send spotlight data to terminals 108. Off the shelf equipment including network controllers, modulators, and demodulators such as those provided by General Instrument Corporation can be used to implement out-of-band delivery system 170.

a4 For the paragraph beginning on page 12, lines 9-11:

The mask or reveal feature and the user interaction processing are described in the aforementioned U.S. Patent Application Serial Nos No. 09/293,526 and 08/94,427 U.S. Patent No. 6,208,335.

For the paragraph beginning on page 20, lines 18-27 :

a5 Memory 560 stores software routines that support various functions and features, and further stores data that may be used for the user interface. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 5, memory 560 includes a user interaction routine 562, a PID mapping table 564, an overlay storage 566, and a stream processing routine 568. User mapping table 564, an overlay storage 566, and a stream processing routine 568. User interaction routine 562 processes user interactions to perform various functions to provide the desired user interface menu. For example, user interaction routine 562 can implement a mask or reveal feature to display (reveal) the desired portion of the IPG page and hide (mask) the undesired portion. User interaction routine 562 may further perform various functions to achieve a demand-cast for a desired IPG page. The mask or reveal is described in U.S. Patent Application Serial Nos No. 09/293,526 and 08/94,427 U.S. Patent No. 6,208,335.